

AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 8, 1999

SENATE BILL

No. 51

Introduced by Senator Alpert

December 7, 1998

~~An act to add Chapter 6.1 (commencing with Section 52050) to, and to add and repeal Article 3 (commencing with Section 52052) of Chapter 6.1 of, Part 28 of the Education Code, relating to school accountability, and making an appropriation therefor. An act relating to school finance.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 51, as amended, Alpert. ~~Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999~~ School finance.

Existing law provides for a system of school finance in the state.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would eliminate redundancy and conflicts among provisions governing school finance and would make other changes with regard to categorical and incentive programs.

~~Existing law requires the State Board of Education to adopt statewide academically rigorous content and performance standards. Existing law requires each school district, charter school, and county office of education to administer to each of its pupils in grades 2 to 11, inclusive, an achievement test designated by the State Board of Education.~~

~~This bill would enact the Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999, which would consist of and an immediate short-term voluntary intervention program an inoperative long-term~~

~~public schools accountability system, and would state legislative findings, declarations, and intent in that regard.~~

~~This bill would require, for purposes of the short-term voluntary intervention program, the Superintendent of Public Instruction to identify low-performing schools. The superintendent would be required to establish a process by which a school district would apply on behalf of a low-performing school for its assignment to a short-term voluntary intervention program.~~

~~This bill would require the governing board of a school district having jurisdiction over a school identified as low performing to appoint an external evaluator to assist in identifying the underlying causes of low performance by pupils in that school.~~

~~This bill would require a school selected for assignment to the short-term voluntary intervention program to develop, in consultation with an academic advisor appointed by the superintendent of the school district, a 2-year school action plan focusing on how the school intends to raise the academic achievement level of pupils enrolled in the school. Following approval by the governing board of the school district, the school action plan would be required to be made available to parents and guardians of pupils and to the community upon request. This short-term voluntary intervention program would become inoperative on June 30, 2002, and would be repealed on January 1, 2003, contingent upon legislation making the long-term accountability program operative.~~

~~This bill would require the state to provide funding on the basis of average daily attendance to a school district for schools selected to participate in the short-term voluntary intervention program.~~

~~This bill would require each school district with schools participating in the short-term voluntary intervention program to evaluate the impact, costs, and benefits of the intervention program as they relate to the school district and the schools under its jurisdiction that are participating in the program. The bill would also require the State Department of Education to contract with an independent evaluator to prepare a comprehensive evaluation of the implementation;~~

~~impact, costs, and benefits of the statewide short-term voluntary intervention program.~~

~~This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to create pursuant to future legislative action a long-term public schools accountability system that will be based on state academic content and performance standards and assessments and include a school performance index that reflects the percentages of pupils performing at various levels on multiple measures. By inoperative provisions, the bill would provide that the Superintendent of Public Instruction is required to consult with an ongoing technical advisory committee in computing the school performance index. The long-term program would focus on gains in pupil achievement by setting targets for school improvement. By inoperative provisions, the bill would provide that the long-term public schools accountability system is required to result in the designation of each school into a category based on its ability to meet or exceed improvement targets and would make schools designated as high achieving eligible for rewards, among which would be regulatory flexibility and a cash grant, while schools that do not achieve their short-term targets would either continue their current efforts for one or 2 years or be sanctioned.~~

~~This bill would appropriate \$50,000,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for purposes of this act and provide that \$500,000 of the funds so appropriated be allocated to the Superintendent of Public Instruction to carry out the state operations and evaluation requirements of that act. To the extent that the funds appropriated by this bill are allocated to a school district or a community college district, those funds would be applied toward the minimum funding requirements for school districts and community college districts imposed by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution.~~

~~Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes no. Fiscal committee: yes no. State-mandated local program: no.~~

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1. Chapter 6.1 (commencing with Section~~
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1 *SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares*
2 *all of the following:*

3 *(1) State financial support of public schools is*
4 *currently provided through a variety of means, including:*

5 *(A) General aid formulas designed to supplement*
6 *local property tax receipts and promote equalization of*
7 *per pupil funding.*

8 *(B) Reimbursement of necessary costs that vary in*
9 *accordance with local conditions.*

10 *(C) Categorical programs that restrict the use of*
11 *financial assistance to certain purchases, services, or*
12 *categories of pupils.*

13 *(D) Incentives to adopt specific instructional methods*
14 *or educational reforms.*

15 *(2) The state has adopted a variety of categorical*
16 *programs without sufficient consideration for*
17 *coordination of these programs and their requirements.*

18 *(3) Restrictions placed on the use and application of*
19 *categorical funds have tended to focus attention on*
20 *process and accountability for funding at the expense of*
21 *attention that should be paid to the learning and*
22 *achievement of pupils.*

23 *(b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to*
24 *enact legislation to do all of the following:*

25 *(1) Eliminate redundancy and conflicts among state*
26 *laws, regulations, rules, and procedures to simplify*
27 *programs of financial assistance to public schools.*

28 *(2) Revise categorical and incentive programs to focus*
29 *attention on pupil outcomes instead of procedural*
30 *requirements.*

31 *(3) Consolidate and streamline categorical programs*
32 *to promote the efficient use of resources and provide local*
33 *school communities with needed flexibility in the use of*
34 *resources to meet their needs.*

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**All matter omitted in this version of the
bill appears in the bill as introduced in the
Senate, December 7, 1998 (JR 11)**

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